PAPERDOLLS PROJECT
PRESENTS

SAINKOKU MONOGATARI

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Saiunkoku Monogatari
Chapter 25

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TRANSLATOR

PROOFREADER

THE CREDITS

SCANNER
& EDITOR

TYPESETTER

paperdolls project is currently recruiting:

> Jap-Eng Translator

> Editor (clean&redraw)

DO YOU ENJOY OUR RELEASES? THINK YOU CAN HELP US OUT? WE BADLY NEED ABLE PEOPLE RIGHT NOW TO START ON HEAPS OF PROJECTS. WE EVEN HAVE SCRIPTS READY BUT BADLY NEEDING EDITORS TO CLEAN THE RAWS...SADFACE

HTTP://PAPERDOLLSPROJECT.ROCKS/RECRUITMENT

WE NEED YOU!

第25話

Hello readers!

I'm Sayu, the proofreader for this chapter. I know that Saiunkoku Monogatari has many fans and I'm simply one of them. The anime and novel were pretty awesome but when the manga stopped scanlating, I was as disappointed as everyone. So now, Saiunkoku Monogatari has found a new home with Paperdolls Project.

Until now, Shuurei and Eigetsu have successfully passed the National Exams with remarkable results. However, having a woman and a child assuming the top ranks was not expected by any official. Shuurei and Eigetsu must stay put if they really want to set flight for their dreams, bearing the torturing of officials and other scholars who do not approve of them.

Read the Chapter to find out more!

The Ministry of Protocol that is in charge of rites, rituals and worships are also in charge of the national examinations
SMILE
SMILE
ALL SCHOLARS
I ONCE AGAIN CONGRATULATE YOU ON DOING WELL IN THE IMPERIAL EXAMS
RITES CHANCERY SAI
THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE MASTER'S ORDERS, THOSE WHO ARE SHORTLISTED INTO THE TOP 20 WILL BE TEMPORARILY SERVING IN THE IMPERIAL COURT
ALL OF YOU WILL BE VALUABLE ASSETS OF THE COUNTRY IN THE FUTURE SO PLEASE TAKE THE CHANCE TO LEARN MORE FROM THIS EXPERIENCE

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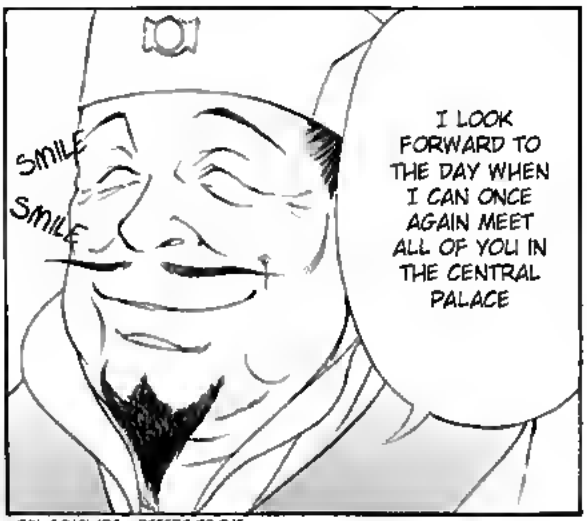


T/N: SCHOLARS - REFERS TO THE OFFICERS WHO AREN'T ASSIGNED TO AN OFFICIAL SEAT OR POST YET.

NOW THE ONE WHO WILL BE YOUR GUIDANCE OFFICER WOULD BE RITES OFFICER RO
HE IS ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED OFFICERS SO HE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE ALL OF YOU SOME GUIDANCE
...HE LOOKS LIKE AN EXTREMELY STRICT OFFICER
... YEAH
...OFFICER RO, I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU SO PLEASE BE MERCIFUL
YOU MUST BE CAREFUL WITH THE SCHOLARS WHO ARE GOING TO BE HIGH OFFICIALS IN THE FUTURE
I UNDERSTAND
WELL THEN, I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE NOW...
THE REST IS UP TO YOU

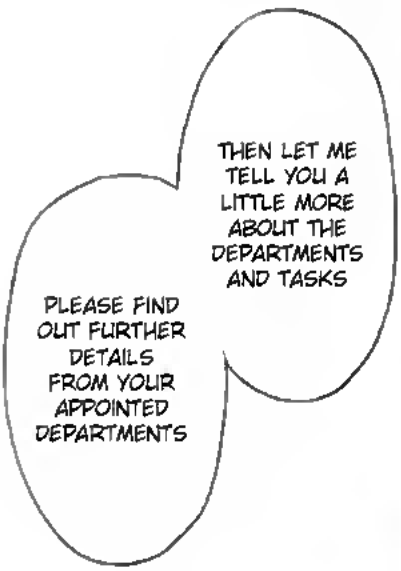
SCHOLAR HONG, SCHOLAR TO
SHOCK
YOUR ROBES ARE FAIRLY DIRTY?
Ah...
THAT IS BECAUSE
NO EXCUSES, THE BOTH OF YOU HAVE NOT GROOMED YOURSELVES PROPERLY
YOU AREN'T AWARE ENOUGH
DID YOU MISTAKE HERE FOR BEING A CHICKEN COOP?

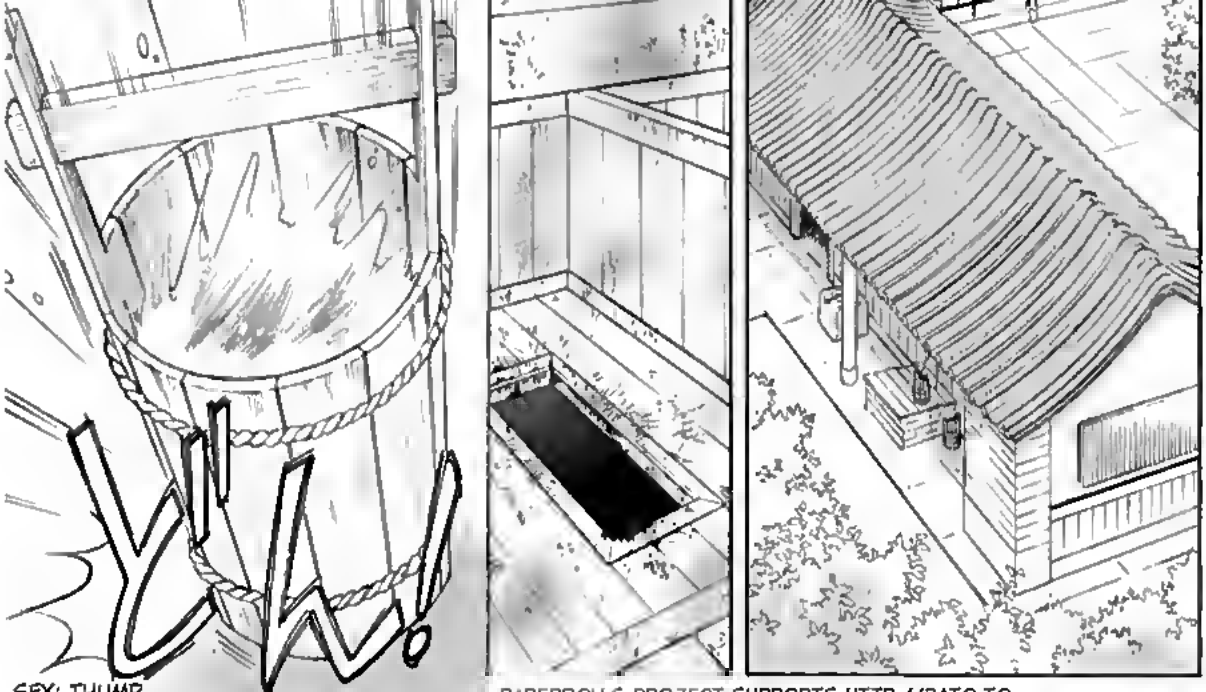
There weren't any other ways, the time on the letter was wrong!..
No one would believe that we were chased here by the soldiers
VERY WELL, YOU WILL BE ASSIGNED TO YOUR RESPECTIVE JOBS LATER
...I'M VERY SORRY
REGARDING THE DIVISION OF SCHOLARS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS WILL BE OVERSEEN BY RITES OFFICER RO, MYSELF
EVEN THOUGH I'M AN OFFICER MYSELF, YOUR PROGRESSES WILL BE REPORTED TO THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL BY MY LETTERS.
I see..
Ministry of Personnel?
YOU MIGHT BE THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE HIGH RANKING OFFICERS AND IMPORTANT PERSONNEL
AND ALSO THE SECOND IN COMMAND UNDER HIS MAJESTY, THIS MAKES YOU IMPORTANT ASSETS TO THE COUNTRY
Which means that this evaluation will affect the future division of departments and position

AND SO THE TWO MONTHS BEFORE YOU'RE ASSIGNED TO A DEPARTMENT, YOU WILL BE SPENDING YOUR TIME IN THE CITY.
EVEN THOUGH YOU WON'T HAVE ANY RANKS, YOU'LL STILL BE ASSIGNED TO VARIOUS TASKS
YOUR CURRENT TASKS HAVE TO HANDED IN TO ME WITHIN A MONTH FROM NOW
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAND IT IN TO ME DIRECTLY, A JOINT, DETAILS AND SUCH ARE ALL UP TO YOU.
Will this be included in the evaluation as well?
Towards the attitude, way of speaking and adaption
SHUUREI-SAN
I can't be so listless anymore
have to get a good review in two months

TARDINESS IS INEXCUSABLE
A MORNING MEETING WILL BE HELD HERE ON THE 6TH HOUR TO DETERMINE THE DIVISION OF TASKS AND ITS DETAILS
Si-lence
-SCHOLARS
SFX: STOMP

SWALLOW


THEN LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE DEPARTMENTS AND TASKS
PLEASE FIND OUT FURTHER DETAILS FROM YOUR APPOINTED DEPARTMENTS



SFX: THUMP

PAPERDOLLS PROJECT SUPPORTS HTTP://BATO.TO

TIGHTENS
THAT IMPUDENT RITES OFFICER RO
Isn't that great!
Kou Shuurei has been ordered to clean all the toilets before noon
YOU THINK THAT THIS WOULD REPENT ME, YOU'RE SO WRONG
CLEANING TOILETS JUST BECAUSE I'M NEW HERE? I'M ALREADY USED TO DOING IT FROM MY PART-TIME JOB!
ぴしゃ

SFX: SPLASH

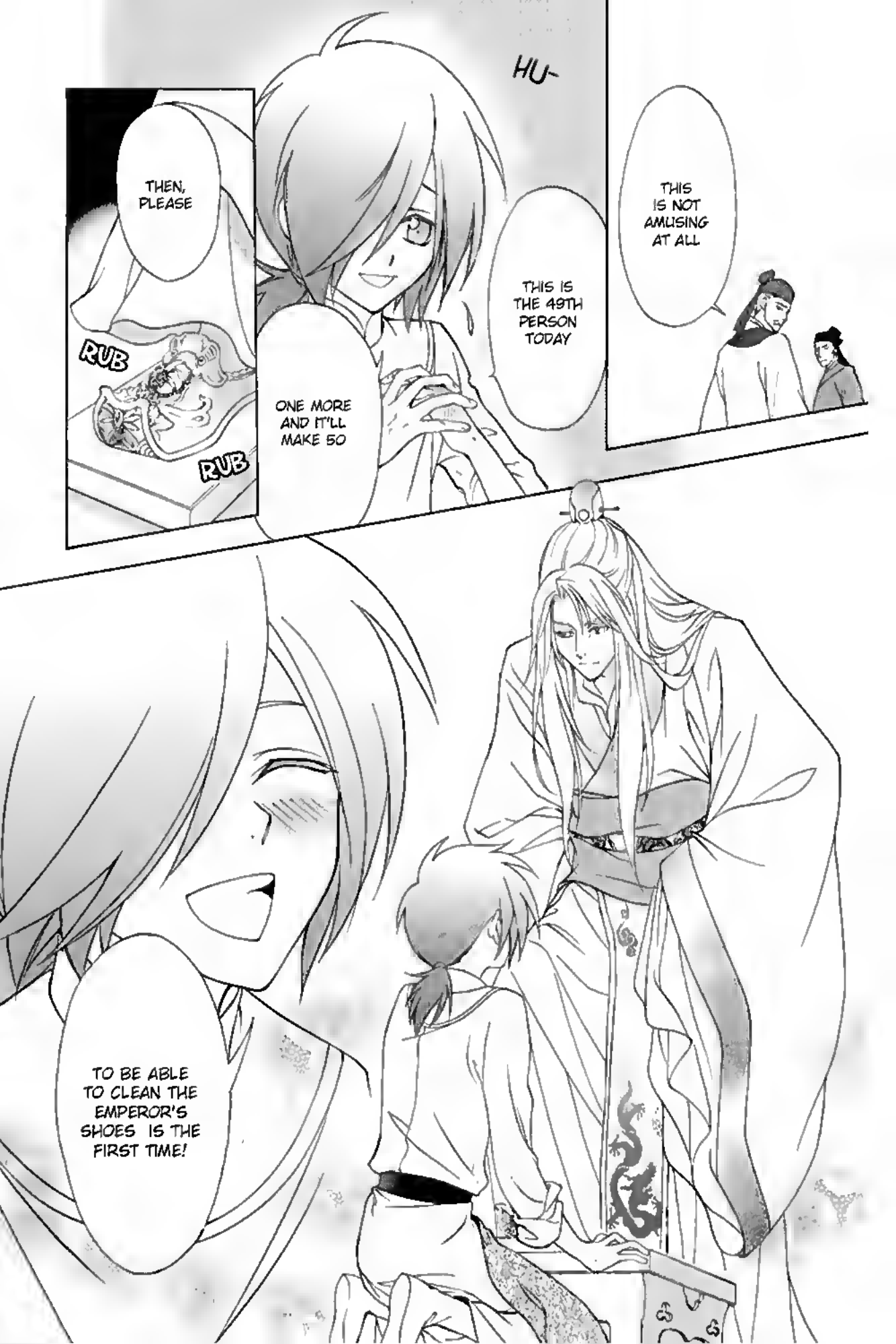
I'LL SCRUB IT TILL IT SPARKLES AND SCARE OFFICER RO OUT OF HIS SKIN!!
LOOK!
SFX: KA-SHAK X4
AHH EVEN IF I SCRUB IT LIKE THIS, IT STILL STINKS
EXCRETION PRODUCTS OF ALL THE GREAT OFFICERS ARE ALL THE SAME!
SFX: SCRUB X2
Sigh
WITH THIS, THE TOILET SHOULD BE A TAD BIT BETTER
THIS SHOULD DO IT!
...YO, GEEZ

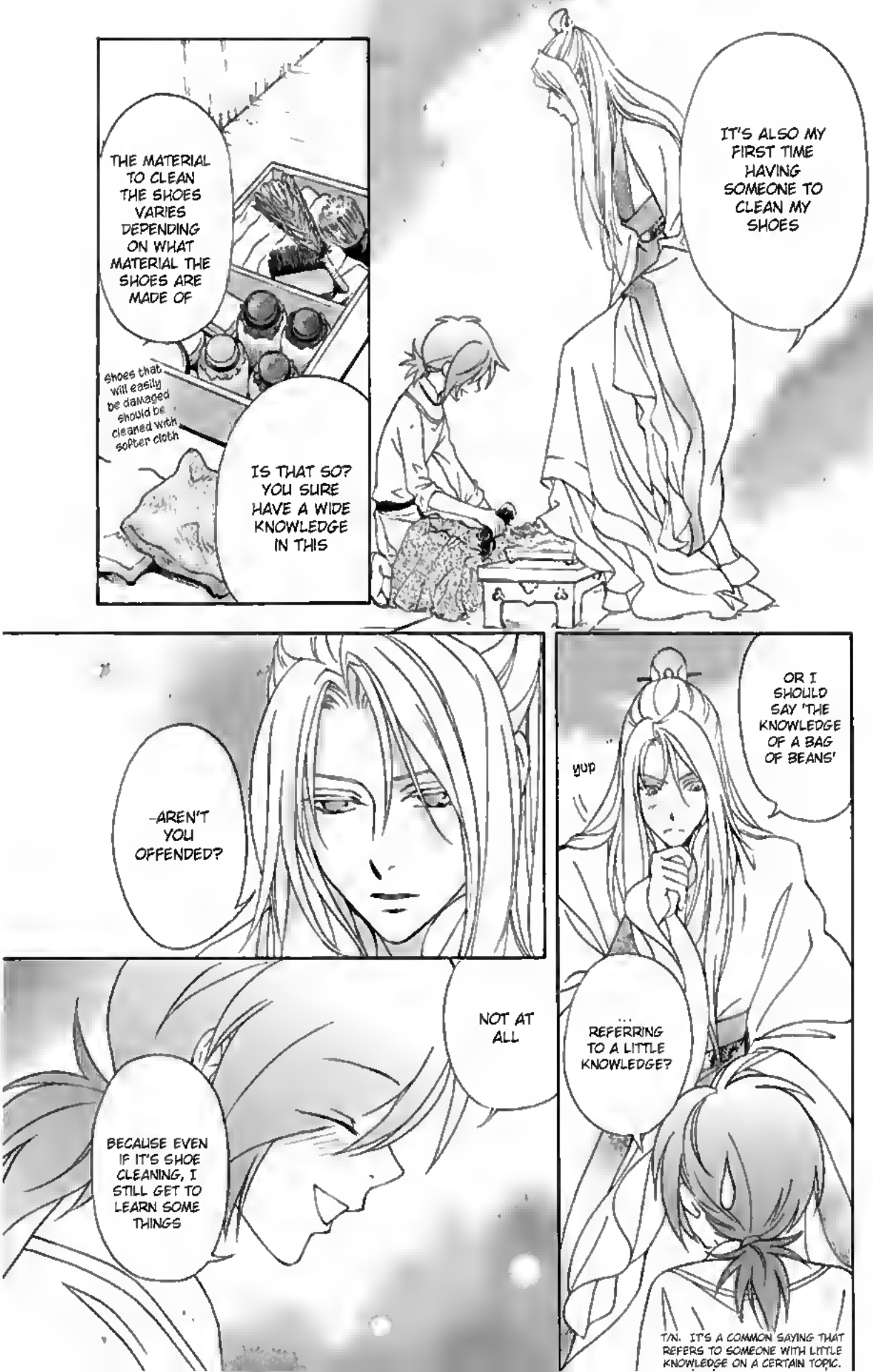
OHH, IT'S SO SMELLY! WHAT IS THIS? IT SMELLS LIKE A PIG'S BARN
AH— THE FRESH AIR SURE IS GREAT
Ha
LOOK, THERE'S A FEMALE PIG OVER THERE
HOW UNPLEASANT! WELL, FORGET THAT SHE'S A PIG, MAYBE THIS AREA SHOULD BE RESTRICTED?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE TOILETS BUT PASSING BY HERE IN THE PALACE IS SO UNPLEASANT, LET'S COMMENT ON THAT NEXT TIME!
WELL SAID
AHAHAHA
HAHA

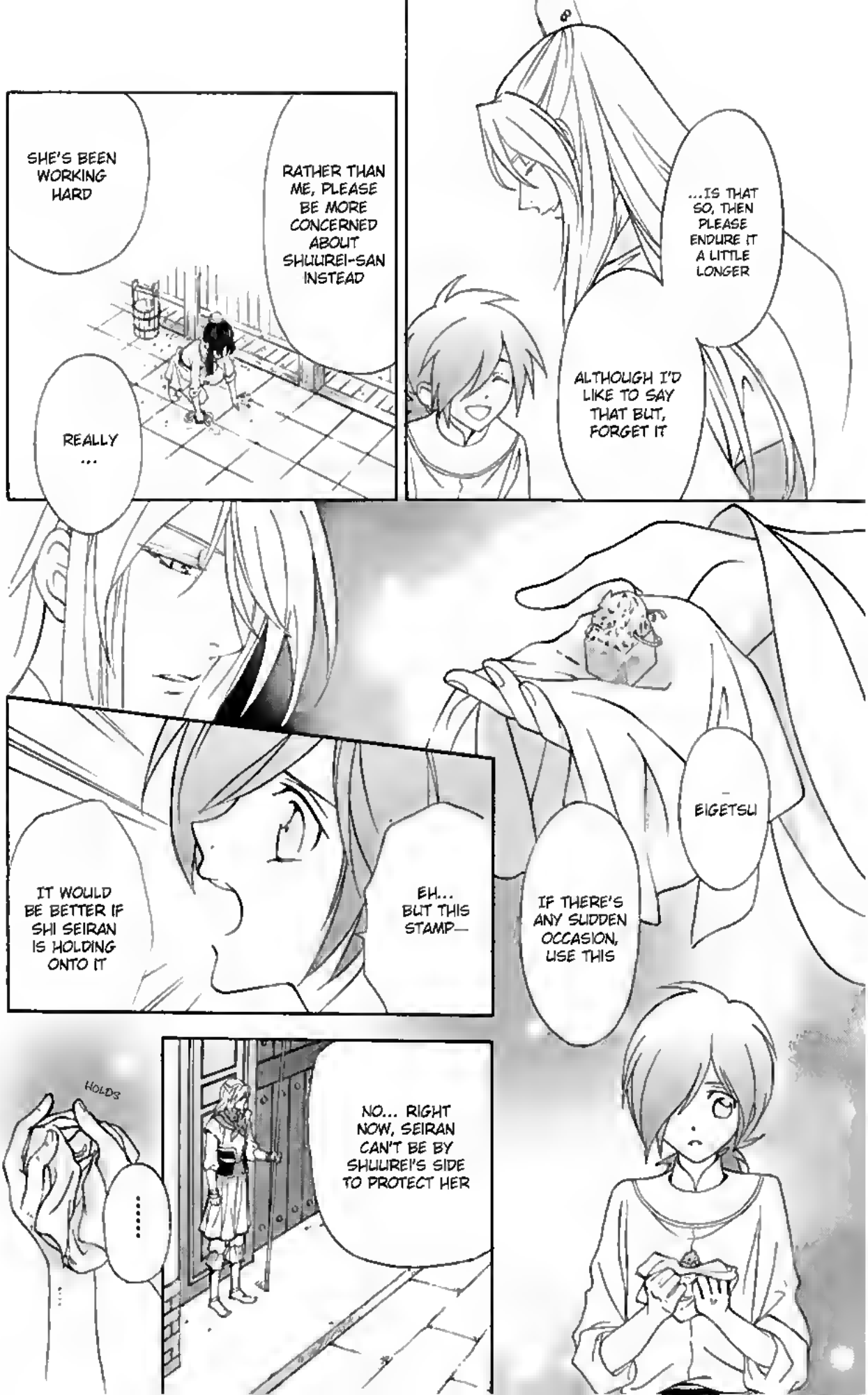
You can't cry
HOW ARE THEY GOING TO COLLECT ENOUGH FUNDS
AHH, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL NEED A GREAT EXPENSE
SPEAKING OF WHICH, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT—
HMPH

HAA—? GEEZ, FOR REAL, HE'S JUST A KID
WELL, WHATEVER HE MIGHT BE ONE OF THE HIGH RANKING OFFICERS IN THE FUTURE
No matter what you've been called, you must be proud of being a woman
Kochou-san...

I'M SORRY TO HAVE THE CHAMPION TO CLEAN MY SHOES
NO, IT'S BECAUSE OF MY JOB
FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU FROM THE BLACK PROVINCE WHO HAS BEEN POOR, YOU'RE USED TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT
IT HURTS
KICK
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY BACKGROUND AT ALL, MAYBE HE'S SOME SUSPICIOUS CRIMINAL
GRIN
GRIN
OH, MY APOLOGIES
I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU
YES
ANGRY
I'M DONE!
BUT I'VE NEVER CLEANED SUCH NICE SHOES BEFORE
YES, IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS—
SMILE
STEP
... HURTS ...
ARE YOU MOCKING ME?!
THESE ARE JUST NORMAL SHOES...


THIS IS NOT AMUSING AT ALL
THIS IS THE 49TH PERSON TODAY
HU-
ONE MORE AND IT'LL MAKE 50
THEN, PLEASE
RUB
RUB
TO BE ABLE TO CLEAN THE EMPEROR'S SHOES IS THE FIRST TIME!


IT'S ALSO MY FIRST TIME HAVING SOMEONE TO CLEAN MY SHOES
THE MATERIAL TO CLEAN THE SHOES VARIES DEPENDING ON WHAT MATERIAL THE SHOES ARE MADE OF
Shoes that will easily be damaged should be cleaned with softer cloth
IS THAT SO? YOU SURE HAVE A WIDE KNOWLEDGE IN THIS
OR I SHOULD SAY 'THE KNOWLEDGE OF A BAG OF BEANS'
yup
... REFERRING TO A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE?
-AREN'T YOU OFFENDED?
NOT AT ALL
BECAUSE EVEN IF IT'S SHOE CLEANING, I STILL GET TO LEARN SOME THINGS
T/N. IT'S A COMMON SAYING THAT REFERS TO SOMEONE WITH LITTLE KNOWLEDGE ON A CERTAIN TOPIC.


...IS THAT SO, THEN PLEASE ENDURE IT A LITTLE LONGER
ALTHOUGH I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT BUT, FORGET IT
SHE'S BEEN WORKING HARD
RATHER THAN ME, PLEASE BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT SHUUREI-SAN INSTEAD
REALLY ...
EIGETSU
IF THERE'S ANY SUDDEN OCCASION, USE THIS
EH... BUT THIS STAMP—
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF SHI SEIRAN IS HOLDING ONTO IT
HOLDS
.....
NO... RIGHT NOW, SEIRAN CAN'T BE BY SHUUREI'S SIDE TO PROTECT HER

THERE, I'M DONE!
...
YOU, DESPITE WHATEVER YOU'VE BEEN CALLED, YOU'D ALWAYS SMILE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMPLIMENT
OHH— IT LOOKS BRAND NEW!
AND I DON'T LIKE LOOKING BACK AND THEN REGRETTING BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY ONE LIFETIME
THAT'S NOTHING
DUNG DUNG DUNG
THEN LET'S HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER—
IT'S THE LUNCH BELL
AHAHA
I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT A LOT
...EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SO YOUNG, YOU'RE WAY OF THINKING IS VERY MATURED

...
YOU'RE HERE AGAIN?
...
YOU
EAH
YOU'VE DECIDED TO FOLLOW ME 24/7 WHERE EVER I GO
AND APPEAR ONCE I CALL FOR YOU
THAT'S RIGHT, DIDN'T I SAY I'D BE YOUR BODYGUARD?
I even changed my clothes
HTTP://PAPERDOLLSPROJECT.ROCKS

DON'T WORRY, THE ONES WHO KNOW WHO I AM ARE ONLY THE HIGH RANKING OFFICERS
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE, OKAY!?

AAAH
-COMPARED TO A CURSE, THIS IS WORSE
WRONG, I'VE DECIDED TO "STICK WITH YOU"

NO WAY
WHY NOT?
IF IT'S A BODYGUARD, SHOULDN'T SHI SEIRAN BE DOING IT JUST LIKE BEFORE?
SEIRAN'S JUST A DOOR GUARD DESPITE HIM BEING THE MIDDLE OFFICER OF THE 16 GUARDS, HIS ACCESS TO THE PALACE IS STILL VERY MUCH RESTRICTED
THERE'S NO BODYGUARD POSITION IN THE FIRST PLACE
SO THAT IS TO SAY, YOU—
Ah...
This is the identity he's chosen...

... NEVERMIND
How stupid...--
Right now, I...
The emperor's orders and what not
I've subconsciously taken advantage of Ryuuki
BE IT IF YOU'RE TAKING THE MOST DANGEROUS OFFICIAL'S POST OR EVEN A GOOD ONE RIGHT NOW, YOU TWO DON'T HAVE MUCH HISTORY SO EVEN IF YOU DISAPPEAR, NO ONE WOULD EVEN BAT AN EYE
I WON'T LOOK FOR YOU TWO OR PUNISH ANY OF YOU
YOU'RE SAYING OUR LIVES ARE IN DANGER!?
THIS IS WHERE IT'S COMPLICATING
JUST BECAUSE THEY DISLIKE IT SO THEY JUST TAKE AWAY THE LIVES OF OTHERS AND MOVE ON, JUST LIKE THAT

IF IT'S EIGETSU, HE'LL DECLINE ALL THE MARRIAGE PROPOSALS AT THE BANQUET HOSTED BY NOBLE CLANS FOR THE SCHOLARS
ALTHOUGH IT'S DANGEROUS FOR SHUURE!
IT'S THE SAME FOR ALCOHOL
BECAUSE HAVING A FEMALE OFFICER IN THE IMPERIAL COURT HAS CAUSED THE MANY DISMAY OF HIGH RANKING OFFICERS
IT'S STILL THE SAME TILL THIS DAY
WHAT ABOUT EIGETSU?
Be
BECAUSE I'M ONLY 13 YEARS OLD SO I CAN'T DRINK YET
And also because if I drink, things will get really messy
EH?
AH... THAT'S TRUE, HE DID DECLINE
If it's pub this way

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AHHH-? IS THAT SO~~~~~~?!
IF YOU DECLINE IT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE ELSE, IT'D SOUND LIKE "TO BE RELATED TO YOU? GO ON AND WASH YOUR FACE AND THEN COME BACK"
MARRIAGE PROPOSALS AS WELL, YOU SHOULD JUST SWITCH THE TOPIC AND SLOWLY DECLINE IT LATER ON, THAT'S WHAT A NOBLEMAN WOULD DO
FROM THE POINT OF THE NOBLE FAMILIES, IT'S A GREAT INSULT
IF THEIR POLITICAL RIVALS FIND OUT, NOT ONLY WILL THEY BE LOOKED DOWN UPON, THE NAMES OF THEIR FAMILIES WILL ALSO DETERIORATE.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEY'LL LABEL IT AS TO EIGETSU'S FAULT AND HATE YOU
-THAT'S ALSO DANGEROUS
POURS
POURS
ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE A HUGE EGO
AH...
TH-THAT...
SHUUREI-SAN, PLEASE DRINK THE TEA BEFORE IT GETS COLD
TURNS
SO OBVIOUS THAT HE'S DENYING REALITY
THANK YOU

DON'T OVER THINK TOO MUCH AND PROTECT YOURSELVES
BUT THAT'S OKAY, JUST DO YOUR BEST ON THE THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO
MAYBE IT'S JUST ME
He looked cool for a moment there
WORK HARD ON YOUR AFTERNOON JOB TOO, SHUUREI
OKAY
...I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM A PERSON WHO HAS RICE STUCK ON HIS FACE
wipes

YES
COMPARED TO CLEANING THE TOILETS AND CLEANING SHOES, THIS IS MUCH BETTER THOUGH! RIGHT, EIGETSU?
SO UNFOR-TUNATE
WHAT'S THE AFTERNOON JOB?
ORGANIZING THE LETTERS AND ACCOUNTINGS... THE DEPARTMENTS SENT A MOUNTAIN OF FILES OVER
AN OFFICER'S JOB
THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO DO
WE CAN'T GET IT DONE~~
...Too naive
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
... AH I CAN'T GET THIS DONE...
KA-
KA-

YES... IT LOOKS LIKE YOU CAN'T GET IT DONE TODAY, GO HOME FIRST
SEIRAN MUST BE WAITING ALONE
FATHER
ARE THE TWO OF YOU OKAY?
THE AMOUNT OF WORK ON THE FIRST DAY IS TERRIFYING
SCHOLAR TO
SCHOLAR KO
YES, I STILL HAVE A LITTLE MORE WORK TO DO...
SFX: THUMP
DUN
SHA
ドサッ
THIS IS THE EXTRA PILE OF DOCUMENTS, PLEASE IT DONE "WITHIN TODAY"
THAT'S WHAT OFFICER RO SAID

AHHH
scatters
THEN
PUSH
The documents we spent the entire day organizing!
MY BAD
smirk
SFX: uuuuuuuuuuuuuu
HOW DARE HE
uuuuu
AH, WE HAVE TO RE-ORGANIZE THESE AGAIN...

LET'S DO THIS, EIGETSU!
Just watch me, Officer Rd
YES!
HOW CAN I LOSE TO YOU ON THE FIRST DAY!!!!
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL HAVE TO WORK UNTIL MORNING
SFX: PAPAPAPAPAPA

EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TO CELEBRATE AT HOME THE FIRST DAY OF ENROLLMENT

HAAA— IT'S FINALLY DONE~
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO SEND THEM TO THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS
YES ...
THE SUN WILL RISE SOON
AH, FORGET THAT. HURRY AND SEND THESE OUT!
WE HAVE TO GATHER ON THE 6TH HOUR
WE CAN'T GO HOME TODAY
What will happen if we were to be late...
creak
EH?

WHAT'S THIS?
RITES OFFICER RO— IS IT?
HE PUTS ON THE IDENTITY OF A GOOD PERSON IN FRONT OF HIS HIGHER UPS BUT BEHIND THEIR BACKS, HE TAKES IT ALL OUT ON THE NEWLY ENROLLED SCHOLARS
EVEN THOUGH HE RETIRED FROM BEING THE GUIDANCE OFFICER 50 YEARS AGO, IS HE JUST MESSING WITH THEM?
STILL THE SAME OLD RUMOR.
WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS SUCH RUMORS DURING THESE OCCASIONS

T/N: HE'S REFERRING TO SHUUREI AND EIGETSU.

CARRYING OUT SUCH TESTS ON GOLDEN STONES?
IS THAT NECESSARY ?
UNTIL IT'S MADE INTO A GOOD SWORD, DOES IT HAVE TO BE KNOCKED LIKE THAT UNTIL THEN?
BUT, IT'S ABOUT TIME HE RETIRES, IS IT NOT?
THE ONE WHO WILL BE DECIDING THIS, WOULD BE THE COUNTRY OF SAIUNKOKU, SOU.